

Senate Resolution 469

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, three empires collapsed as a result of World War I, and Poland regained her
4 independence after 123 years; this was accomplished mostly through its own military efforts;
5 however, America's help was crucial; and

6 WHEREAS, President Wilson recognized Poland's right to be a sovereign state with access
7 to the sea in one of his Fourteen Points; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States allowed Americans of Polish descent to be recruited on
9 American soil to join a Polish army abroad; approximately 40,000 volunteered and roughly
10 18,000 went "over there" to fight before the United States proclaimed war on Germany and
11 her allies; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States accorded robust diplomatic support to Poland at the Versailles
13 conference; and

14 WHEREAS, demobilized American pilots (the Kosciuszko Squadron) traveled to Poland to
15 fight for her freedom; the cohort included future Hollywood producer Merian C. Cooper, of
16 *King Kong* fame. Cooper's great-grandfather was an aide de camp to General Casimir
17 Pulaski, the founder of United States cavalry, who had fallen in battle at Savannah, Georgia,
18 in 1779. Cooper and other Americans believed they owed a debt of gratitude to the Poles;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, ultimately, it was the Polish nation that rallied and victoriously fought five
21 border wars, including against the Soviet Union, to earn its freedom, which was extinguished
22 by Hitler and Stalin in 1939 and then restored after 1989; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this historic anniversary be appropriately
24 recognized.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 recognize Poland on this grand occasion of the 100th anniversary of regaining its
27 independence.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
30 press.